

### **Informational Brief**

# Application of Virtual World Technologies to Undersea Warfare Learning

POC: Mr. Douglas Maxwell douglas.b.maxwell@navy.mi (401) 832 6215

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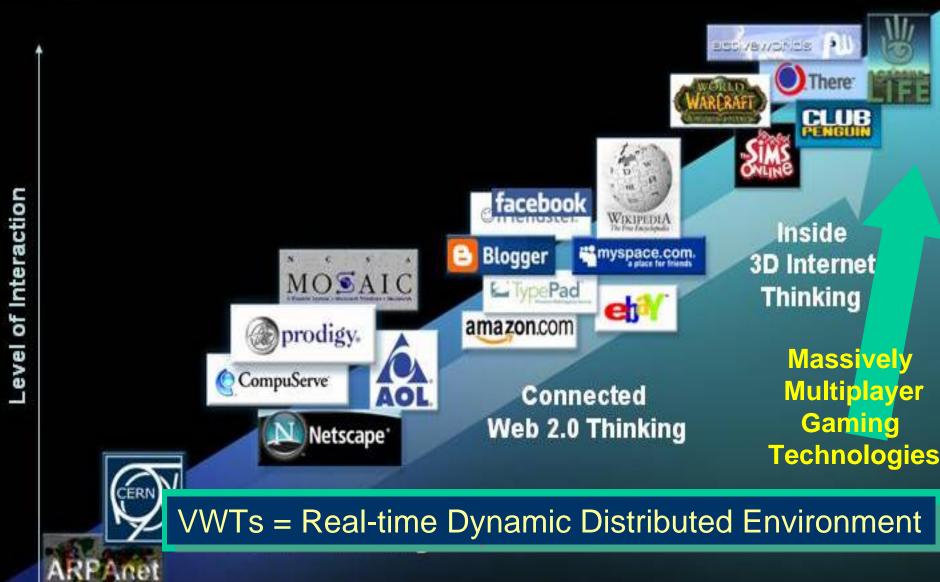
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### Virtual World Technologies (VWTs)



"Using Virtual Worlds To Shape the Future" by Dr. Susan U. Stucky, IBM Almaden Research Center



### Virtual World Characteristics



Information arranged in 3-D and accessed via geospatial referencing or teleports

User **immersed** in information with unique representation in common virtual space

Experience is **social** where users interact with each other (visual, chat, voice)



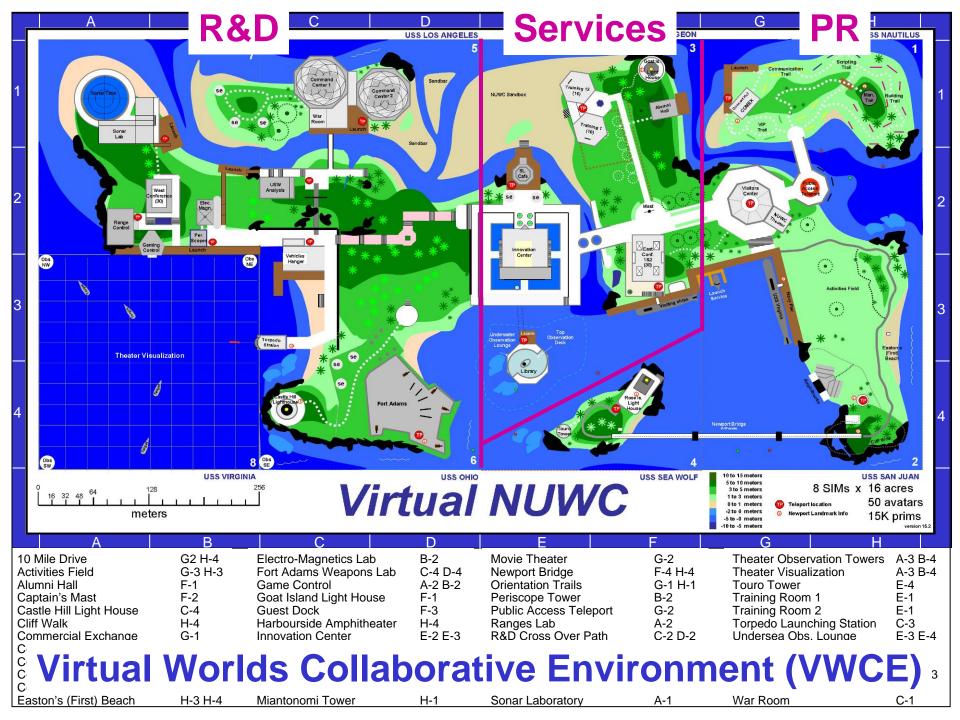
### **NUWC Mission Objectives**

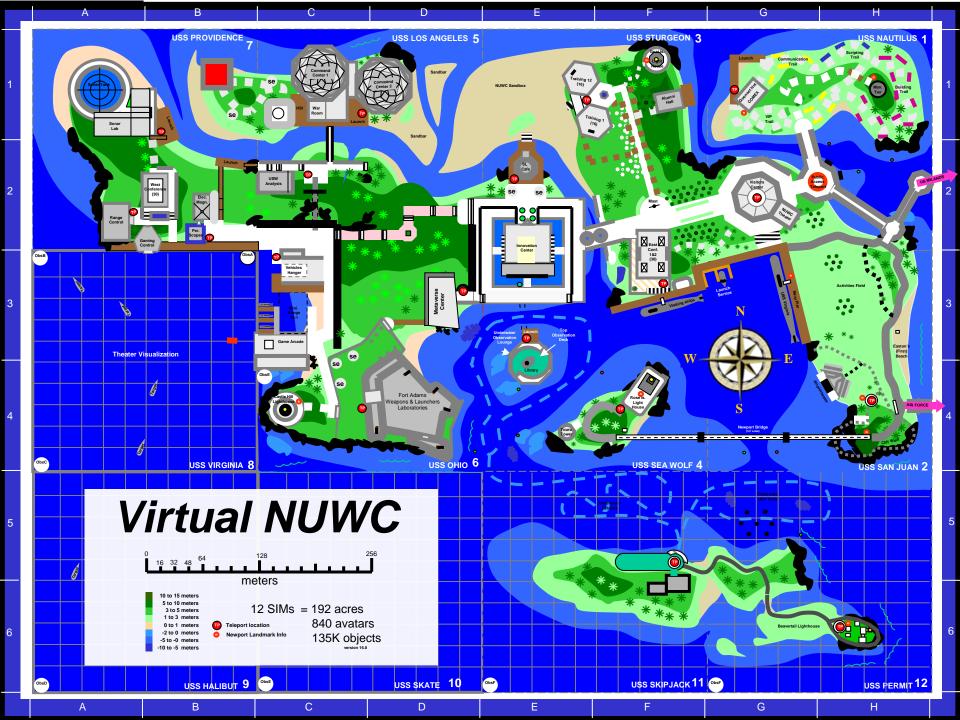
- NUWCDivNpt recognizes that rapidly evolving gaming and visualization technologies have the potential to radically change the way the Navy approaches Collaboration & Innovation
  - The primary FY08 goal was investigation of various virtual world technologies (i.e., Second Life, Open Sim, OLIVE and Wonderland) to fully understand their strengths, weaknesses and limitations.
  - The primary FY09 goal is experimentation so that NUWC, its customers and sponsors can effectively apply this technology in support of undersea warfare mission areas.



### Virtual Worlds Focus

- Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) reports over 300 Virtual Worlds in development
  - Second Life (Linden Labs) = largest but public access only
  - OLIVE (Forterra) = custom scenario trainer
  - Open Simulation = open source clone of Second Life
  - Wonderland (Sun) = share existing desktop applications
  - Qwaq Forums (Qwaq, Inc.)= virtual meeting spaces
  - eXtensible3D = open standard formats and architecture
  - ProtoSphere (Proton Media) = enterprise solution for collaboration
  - Real World (DARPA) = user-definable scenario training
  - Active Worlds = small bandwidth, many users
  - Joint State Response Training System (JSRTS) EM Nexus (National Guard) = custom scenario trainer
  - Croquet = Open source metaverse software foundation
  - HiPiHi = Chinese clone of Second Life







# Coordinated Military Presence

### MARINES & OTHER

- **NUWC** is organizing a coordinated military coalition presence into Second Life
  - Linden Lab provides a Coalition Hub to act as a central information and access point
  - Provides greater visibility and sharing of resources as new agencies set up presence

**ARMY** 





**NAVY** 

**Virtual NUWC** 

AIR FORCE

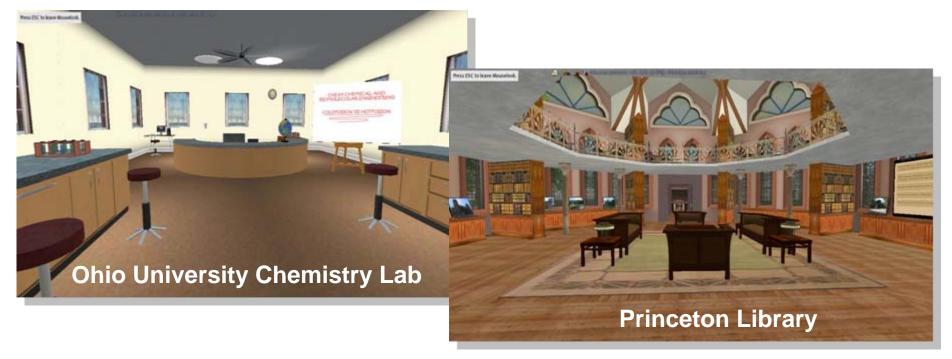


# Use of Virtual Worlds for Training and Education

- Virtual Worlds are being used by many organizations and academic institutions to educate and train in new ways
  - Remote access learning in a traditional classroom setting
  - Remote access training of specialized skill sets or tools
  - 3. Scenario training requiring mass participants
  - 4. Immersive Learning via virtual immersion into information space



### Class Room Training



- Virtual Worlds support remote access for students / instructors to traditional classroom training with immersion, spatial voice, IM, Power Point, streaming video, text/movie recording
- Over 300 educational institutions have set up virtual campuses for remote learning including the 18 of top 20 US universities (e.g., Harvard Law School)
- Complete current list of resources in Second Life at: <a href="http://simteach.com/">http://simteach.com/</a>



### Skill Training

- Virtual Worlds can provide remote, collaborative access to specialized tools (real or simulated) and situations requiring unique skills
  - Provides greater time-on-asset, removes inherent risks/dangers, and provides greater control over information presentation
- Submarine example: operators and instructors remotely log into high fidelity virtual representation of 688i / Virginia attack center in Wonderland<sup>TM</sup> VW
  - Operators have interaction with each other and full VNC access to actual CBOT displays running on actual remote hardware
  - Demonstrates ability to conduct remote team training, COOPEX planning, distributed testing.





"Trucking companies, for instance, are teaching drivers how to parallel park their vehicles using simulations built in Second Life" – McKinsey & Co. 2008

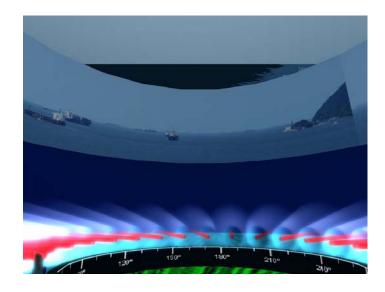


## Immersive Learning

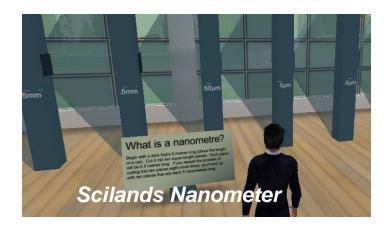
- An optimized blend of simulation and game that leads to the learner being motivated by, and immersed into, the purpose and goals of a learning interaction.
- Immersive Learning simulations work
  - Over 93% of (1100) respondents who have created an ILS report that their efforts produce results that are better than other forms of rich-skill practice (source: eLearning Guild)

"A school history class could, for example, spend a lesson wandering around the ruins of Pompeii or Petra, going into buildings and seeing what they would see if they were actually there, providing a much livelier form of education in a form that can be exported around the world."

'- Smart Services CEO Warren Bradey



Acoustic Detection Exhibit at vNUWC





# Project Bluejacket

#### **Objective:**

Explore the use of Virtual World Technology to teach basic submarine tactical skills such as Target Motion Analysis (TMA), contact management and weapon presetting

### **Requirements:**

Intuitive / Interactive / Engaging / Fun Multi-player access supporting team building Supports student evaluation via metrics Mission focused scalability to more complex problems/goals

Approach:

1) Map out initial game storyboard integrating learning objectives into game goals (using Mind Map tool)

Stand-alone and/or centralized with remote access

- 2) Investigate basic gaming environment and infrastructure components using Second Life<sup>TM\*</sup> virtual world
- 3) Prototype game for evaluation by Submarine Learning Center (March 2009)









- With over 300 VWTs in development it is a challenge to keep abreast of their evolving capabilities and match a particular VWT with enough maturity to an appropriate military application.
- No one world meets all our requirements!
- Second Life is proving to be a flexible, extremely capable VWT earning our continued focus as we strive to bring this technology to fruition in support of today and tomorrow's war fighter.